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**BOROUGH OF TORQUAY**

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**Torquay Riparian Authority  
REPORT 1952**



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## BOROUGH OF TORQUAY

### PORT HEALTH ADMINISTRATION, 1952

The following report is the record of Port Health Administration for the year 1952, detailed in form and sequence in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health contained in Form Port 20 and Circular 33/52.

As a result of the Public Health (Ships) Regulations, 1952, the form and scope of the report have been revised, and the full details are required for the year under review ; subsequently this will only be necessary in 1955 and every five years, the intermediate year being covered by a shorter report in which certain sections (marked with an asterisk) need not be reported unless there is any change.

#### \*SECTION 1—STAFF

TABLE A

<i>Name of Officer</i>	<i>Nature of Appointment</i>	<i>Date of Appointment</i>	<i>Qualifications</i>	<i>Any other appointments held</i>
J. V. A. SIMPSON	Medical Officer of Health.	1936	M.D. (LOND.), B.S. M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. D.P.H. (CAMB.)	Medical Officer, Isolation Hospital.
G. J. LOVELESS	Chief Sanitary Inspector and Port Sanitary Inspector.	1946	C.R.S.I., CERT. INSP. MEAT AND FOOD R.S.I.	
A. THOMPSON	District Sanitary Inspector and Assistant Port Sanitary Inspector.	1925	C.R.S.I.	

CLERKS :—S. E. R. AUTHERS, Chief Clerk.  
E. C. DOBLE.

(The work in connexion with Port Health Administration is carried out by the above members of the Public Health Staff, in the course of the general Public Health Administration of the Borough.)

*Address and telephone number of the Medical Officer of Health :*

St. Marychurch Town Hall,      Tel. No.: Torquay 88204.  
Torquay.



## SECTION II—AMOUNT OF SHIPPING ENTERING THE DISTRICT DURING THE YEAR

TABLE B

<i>Ships from</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Tonnage</i>	<i>Number Inspected</i>		<i>Number of ships reported as having, or having had during the voyage, infectious disease on board</i>
			<i>By the Medical Officer of Health</i>	<i>By the Sanitary Inspector</i>	
Foreign Ports	13	1,035	3	13	—
Coastwise ...	856	13,048	4	98	—
TOTAL ...	869	14,083	7	111	—

## SECTION III—CHARACTER OF SHIPPING AND TRADE DURING THE YEAR

TABLE C

PASSENGER TRAFFIC	<div> <div>Number of passengers INWARDS</div> <div>Number of passengers OUTWARDS</div> </div>	This is not a port approved under the Aliens Order, 1920.
CARGO TRAFFIC ...	<div>Principal IMPORTS. Cement, Timber, Slates.</div> <div>Principal EXPORTS. Bricks.</div>	
PRINCIPAL PORTS from which ships arrived in 1952 : London, Carlshaven, St. Malo, Marseilles, and general coastwise.		

## SECTION IV—INLAND BARGE TRAFFIC

There is no inland barge traffic in the area.

## \*SECTION V—WATER SUPPLY

(1) *Source of supply for (a) the District, and (b) Shipping.*

(a) The water supply of the District is from an extensive upland surface gathering ground on Dartmoor of 4,814 acres ; there are four storage reservoirs with a capacity of 848 million gallons, which is equivalent to approximately seven months supply.

After storage the water is filtered, lime is added to raise the pH value, and the supply is chlorinated. There are six service reservoirs in the town, from which every house is supplied.

(b) The port is supplied by standpipes from the main town supply.

(2) *Reports of tests for contamination.*

Samples are taken every week from the service reservoirs in the Town, and additional samples are taken from taps in various places, and from the standpipes at the harbour.

During 1952, the number of samples taken was 96, of which 88 were satisfactory. Of these, two samples were taken at the harbour, both of which were satisfactory, i.e. number of organisms in 100 ml.=nil.

(3) *Precautions taken against contamination of hydrants and hosepipes.*

These are flushed prior to use and inspected regularly by the Sanitary Inspector.

(4) *Number and sanitary condition of water boats, and powers of control by the Authority.*

There are no water boats.

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## SECTION VI—PUBLIC HEALTH (SHIPS) REGULATIONS, 1952

(1) *List of infected areas. (Regulation 6.)*

*Arrangements for the preparation and amendment of the list, the form of the list, the persons to whom it is supplied, and the procedure in supplying it to those persons.*

The list of infected ports and areas supplied from the Ministry of Health each week is noted at the Public Health Department and is then taken by the District Sanitary Inspector to the Customs Officer who retains it for the week ; when each new list is taken, the list for the previous week is returned to the Health Department.

(2) *Radio Messages.*

(a) *Arrangement for sending permission by radio, for ships to enter the District. (Regulation 13.)*

Arrangements are made with the Post Office for the transmission of Wireless messages, if required.

(b) *Arrangements for receiving messages by radio from ships, and for acting thereon. (Regulation 14 (1) (a) and (2)).*

These messages are received through the Post Office, and would in the first instance be to the Local Shipping Agents, thence to the Customs Officer and subsequently to the Medical Officer of Health.



- (3) *Notification otherwise than by radio. (Regulation 14 (1) (b)). Arrangements for receiving notifications otherwise than by radio and for acting thereon.*

Messages are received or sent by the Customs Officer communicating with the Coast Guard Station at Berry Head for signals either of flags or flash lamps in morse ; Berry Head commands the whole Bay for shipping.

Detailed notices on the Maritime Declaration of Health instruct Masters of vessels to fly the International signals as given in the Regulations. Any notifications to the Customs Officer are communicated at once to the Medical Officer of Health.

- (4) *Mooring Stations. (Regulations 22 to 30)—Situation of Stations, and any other standing directions issued under these Regulations.*

A quarantine buoy is placed 1,000 yards South-West out to sea from the end of Haldon Pier ; the buoy is painted yellow and black, and is lighted at night.

No standing directions have been issued.

- (5) *Arrangements for :—*

- (a) *Hospital accommodation for infectious cases (other than Smallpox—See Section VII).*

Cases of infectious disease, other than Smallpox, are admitted to the Torquay Isolation Hospital, which is the Hospital for the Torquay District Management Committee area.

- (b) *Surveillance and follow-up of contacts.*

Surveillance and following-up of contacts are undertaken by the Medical Officer of Health and Sanitary Inspectors.

- (c) *Cleansing and disinfection of ships, persons, clothing and other Articles.*

There is a Cleansing Station for persons at St. Marychurch Town Hall. Disinfection of any Quarters aboard ship is dealt with by the Sanitary Inspectors, and the disinfection of clothing and other articles takes place at the Isolation Hospital, where there is a modern Thresh Disinfector, together with facilities for articles which cannot be put through steam under pressure.

## SECTION VII—SMALLPOX

- (1) *Name of Isolation Hospital to which Smallpox cases are sent from the District.*

Cases are sent to Upton Pyne Smallpox Hospital near Exeter, and the Medical Officer in charge is the Resident Physician of Whipton Isolation Hospital, Exeter, Dr. R. P. Boyd.

- (2) *Arrangement for transport of such cases to that Hospital by ambulance, giving the name of the Authority responsible for the ambulance and the vaccinal state of the ambulance crews.*

The ambulance is arranged by telephone message to the Resident Physician at Whipton Isolation Hospital, Exeter, who states that the vehicle is supplied by the Exeter City Health Department and is staffed by the Hospital, and that all members of the crew are fully vaccinated.

- (3) *Names of Smallpox Consultants available.*

The Consultants available are :—

Dr. C. Seward of Exeter,

Dr. W. J. Laird of Exeter.

- (4) *Facilities for Laboratory diagnosis of Smallpox.*

Specimens for Laboratory diagnosis are sent to the Central Public Health Laboratory (Virus Reference), Colindale, Hendon, N.W.4.

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## \*SECTION VIII—VENEREAL DISEASE

*Information as to the location, days and hours of the available facilities for the diagnosis and treatment of venereal disease among merchant seaman under international arrangements, including in-patient treatment and the steps taken to make these facilities known to seamen.*

Facilities for the diagnosis and treatment of venereal disease among seamen are available at the Torbay Hospital, Torquay, either daily or at the specified clinics for men on Wednesdays at 5.30 p.m.—7.30 p.m.

In-patient treatment is given at the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital, Exeter.

The personnel of all ships are circulated with leaflets informing them of the facilities.



SECTION IX—CASES OF NOTIFIABLE AND  
OTHER INFECTIOUS DISEASES ON SHIPS

TABLE D

Category	Disease	No. of cases during the year		No. of ships concerned
		Passengers	Crew	
Cases landed from ships from foreign ports ...	—	—	—	—
Cases which have occurred on ships from foreign ports but have been disposed of before arrival	—	—	—	—
Cases landed from other ports ... ..	—	—	—	—

*A short account should be given of the measures taken on the arrival by ship of (a) any case of smallpox, cholera, plague, yellow fever, typhus, or relapsing fever included in Table D ; (b) any suspected case of any such disease.*

N I L .

SECTION X—OBSERVATIONS OF THE OCCURRENCE  
OF MALARIA IN SHIPS

N I L .

SECTION XI—MEASURES TAKEN AGAINST SHIPS  
INFECTED WITH OR SUSPECTED FOR PLAGUE

N I L .



## SECTION XII—MEASURES AGAINST RODENTS IN SHIPS FROM FOREIGN PORTS

### (1) *Procedure for inspection of ships for rats.*

Enquiries are made by the Sanitary Inspector from all Masters of vessels using the Port concerning the presence of rats, and, if present, of signs of unusual mortality among the rats. Owing to the small size of the vessels, and of the nature of the cargo carried, it is uncommon to find any evidence of rat infestation.

Systematic inspections are made of the ships and quays, with special reference to the presence of rat runs, excreta, damage to foodstuffs, etc.

### (2) *Arrangements for the Bacteriological or Pathological examination of rodents, with special reference to rodent plague, including the number of rodents sent for examination during the year.*

The examinations, if required at any time, will be made through the Public Health Laboratory Service at Exeter.

None has so far been required.

### (3) *Arrangements in the District for deratting ships, the methods used, and, if done by a commercial contractor, the name of the contractor.*

Any ship requiring deratting is referred to Plymouth for the necessary measures, and the next port of call of the vessel is notified.

### (4) *Progress in the rat-proofing of ships.*

This has not been required owing to the limited nature of shipping entering the port.

#### TABLE E

*Rodents destroyed during the year in ships from foreign ports.*

N I L .

#### TABLE F

*Deratting Certificates and Deratting Exemption Certificates issued during the year for ships from foreign ports.*

This table does not apply as Torquay is not an approved port under Article 52 of the International Sanitary Regulations.

## SECTION XIII—INSPECTION OF SHIPS FOR NUISANCES

TABLE G

### Inspections and Notices

<i>Nature and Number of Inspections</i>		<i>Notices served</i>		<i>Result of serving notices</i>
		<i>Statutory Notices</i>	<i>Other Notices</i>	
General ...	17	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	17			

## \*SECTION XIV—PUBLIC HEALTH (SHELLFISH) REGULATIONS, 1934 and 1948

*Information respecting any Shell-fish beds or layings within the jurisdiction of the Authority stating whether they are, in the opinion of the Medical Officer of Health, liable to pollution. A report of any action taken, which should state whether any prohibited area has been prescribed, should be included.*

There are no Shell-fish beds or layings within the jurisdiction of the Authority.

## \*SECTION XV—MEDICAL INSPECTION OF ALIENS

(Applicable only to ports approved for the landing of aliens)

This Section does not apply.

## \* SECTION XVI—MISCELLANEOUS

*Arrangement for the burial on shore of persons who have died on board ship from infectious disease.*

Torquay is not a port for passenger traffic, and it is only in very exceptional circumstances that this would arise.

In the case of infectious disease other than smallpox, plague, or typhus fever, the bodies would be removed with the usual precautions to the Borough Mortuary at St. Marychurch Town Hall, pending interment or cremation in the normal way.

For the more serious diseases, the arrangements for coffining, etc., would be carried out by the staff of the Public Health Department, who are vaccinated annually, and have protective clothing (obtained during the war) for insect-borne diseases.





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**UNDERHILL (Plymouth) Ltd.**  
Printers  
Regent Street, Plymouth

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